

NEWS RELEASE

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F L A B O R



For Release: Thursday, October 10, 2019

19-1821-PHL

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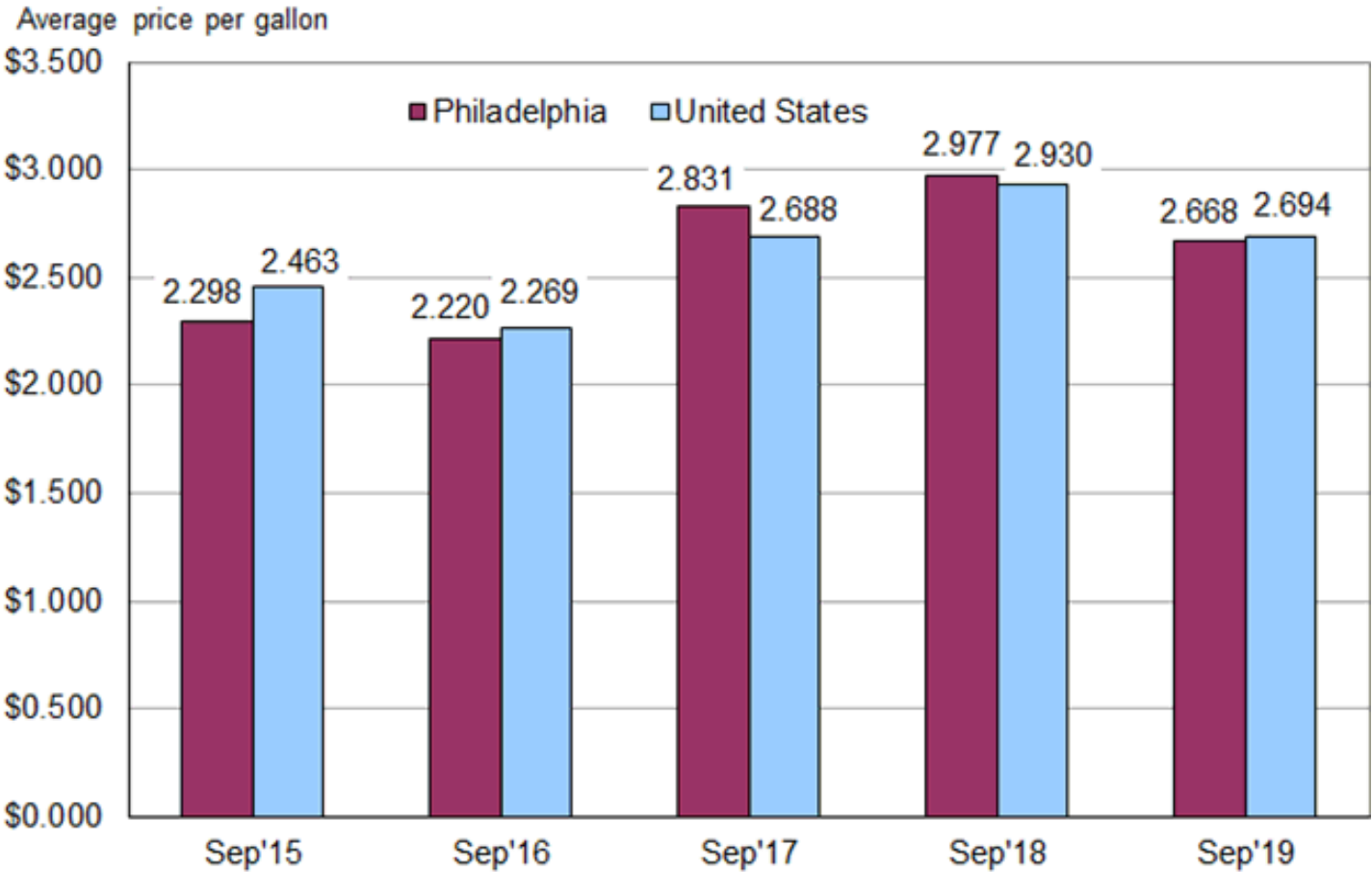
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Average Energy Prices, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – September 2019

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.668 a gallon in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area in September 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, noted that area gasoline prices were 10.4 percent lower than last September when they averaged \$2.977 per gallon. Philadelphia-area households paid an average of 15.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in September 2019, close to the average of 15.2 cents in September 2018. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.173 per therm in September was 7.0 percent higher than its price of \$1.096 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.668 a gallon, the price for gasoline in the Philadelphia area was close to the national average of \$2.694 a gallon in September 2019. From 2015 to 2018, local and national prices for gasoline in September differed by 6.7 percent or less. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

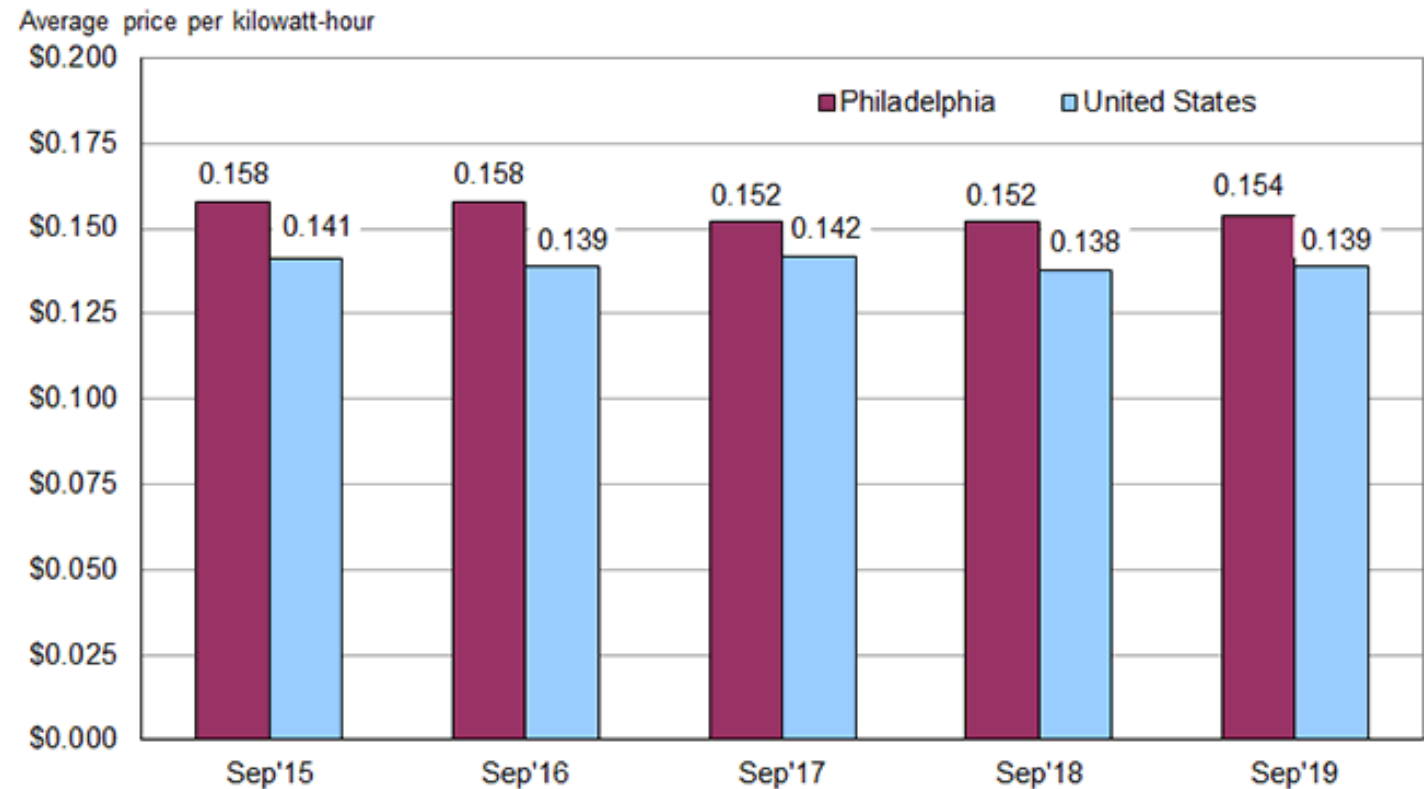
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, September 2015–September 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 15.4 cents per kWh that Philadelphia households paid for electricity in September 2019 was 10.8 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.9 cents per kWh. Last September, electricity prices in Philadelphia were 10.1 percent higher than the nation. From 2015 to 2017, prices paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for electricity in September exceeded the U.S. average by 7.0 percent or more. (See [chart 2.](#))

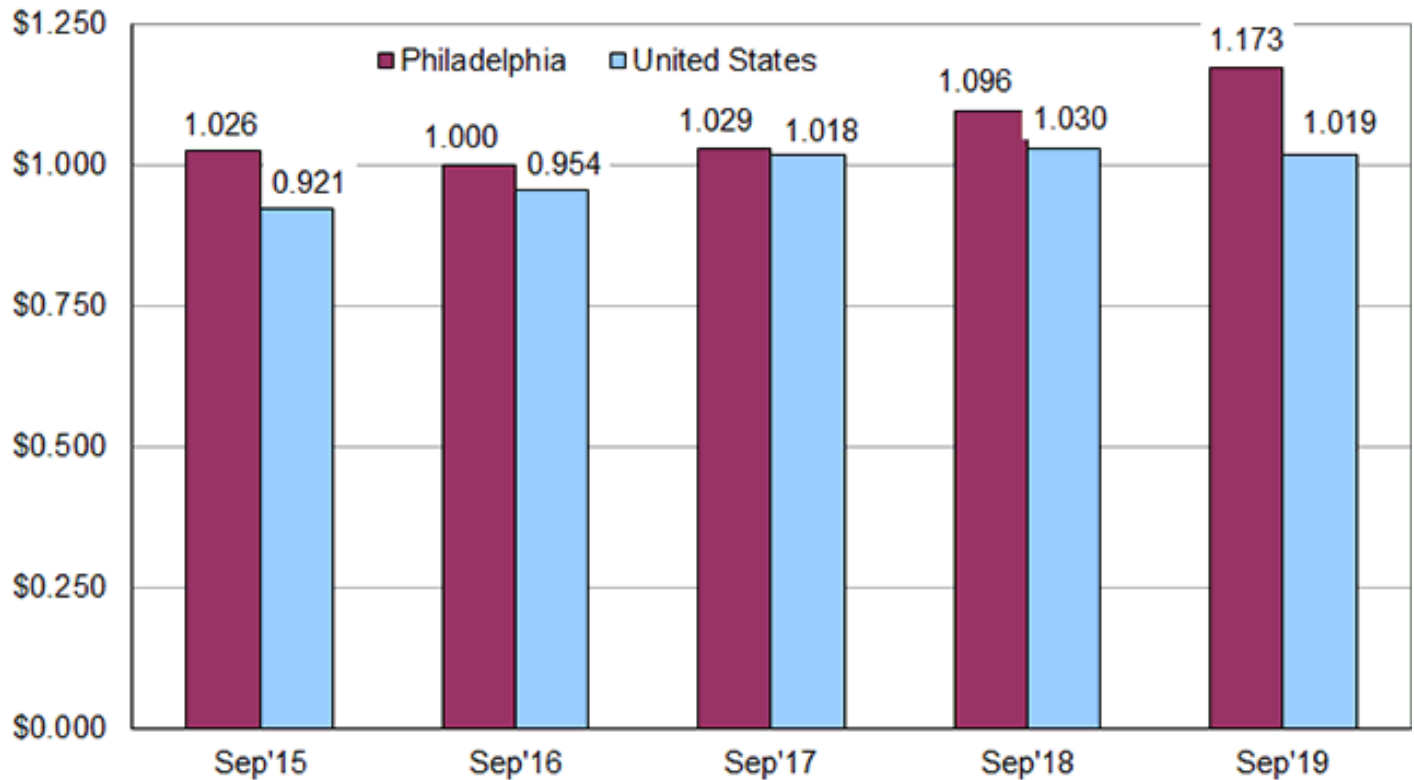
Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, September 2015–September 2019



The price paid by Philadelphia-area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.173 per therm in September 2019, 15.1 percent higher than the national average of \$1.019 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Philadelphia area were also above the national average in September for the previous four years, ranging from 1.1 percent to 11.4 percent higher. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington and United States, September 2015–September 2019

Average price per therm



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Consumer Price Index for October 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

The **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Core Based Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Philadelphia area, September 2018–September 2019, not seasonally adjusted

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States	Philadelphia	United States
2018						
September	\$2.977	\$2.930	\$0.152	\$0.138	\$1.096	\$1.030
October	2.922	2.945	0.149	0.136	1.108	1.023
November	2.658	2.733	0.151	0.134	1.116	1.020
December	2.509	2.479	0.150	0.135	1.134	1.085
2019						
January	2.411	2.352	0.118	0.135	1.152	1.082
February	2.457	2.412	0.155	0.136	1.158	1.051
March	2.640	2.620	0.155	0.135	1.236	1.048
April	2.871	2.894	0.155	0.135	1.217	1.034
May	2.957	2.963	0.156	0.136	1.217	1.035
June	2.824	2.814	0.156	0.139	1.198	1.035
July	2.855	2.836	0.156	0.140	1.199	1.029
August	2.746	2.716	0.155	0.139	1.199	1.034
September	2.668	2.694	0.154	0.139	1.173	1.019